

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 01514 070613Z

12

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 MC-02 SS-15

NSC-05 L-02 SP-02 /046 W

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R 070447Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2698

INFO USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

CARMISH/MAAG TEHRAN

JCS WASHDC

SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 1514

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, IR, KU

SUBJECT: GOI LANCE MISSILE REQUEST

REF: STATE 077420

1. ACQUISITION OF LANCE BY GOI WOULD NOT GENERATE ANY SIGNIFICANT ADDITIONAL CONCERN BY GOK TOWARDS GOI. PRESENT IRANIAN ARSENAL IS SO OVERWHELMING FROM KUWAITI VIEW THAT ONE MORE WEAPON WILL NOT MEAN MUCH. HOWEVER, SOME ADVERSE PRESS IS POSSIBLE.

2. COMMANDER OF KUWAIT MILITARY, MAJGEN SHAIKH MUBARAK HAS STATED HE FAILS TO UNDERSTAND REASON FOR IRANIAN MILITARY BUILD-UP BUT HE IS NOT OVERLY CONCERNED FOR PRESENT. HE HAS NO FEAR THAT PRESENT SHAH WILL USE HIS MILITARY MIGHT AGAINST KUWAIT, BUT IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE SITUATION WHICH COULD DEVELOP IF SHAH WERE TO DIE. THIS VIEW HAS BEEN STATED ON NUMBER OF OCCASIONS, INCLUDING IN CONVERSATIONS WITH GEN EADE, DEPUTY COMMANDER, USCINCEUR, AND IS WIDELY HELD AMONG KUWAITI MILITARY.

3. ON NUMBER OF OCCASIONS, MUBARAK HAS DISCUSSED WEAPONS SYSTEMS
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PAGE 02 KUWAIT 01514 070613Z

(WITH DOD REP) INDICATING DESIRE FOR WEAPON SUCH AS LANCE TO

BE USED AS DETERRENT AGAINST IRAQ. CONVERSATIONS HAVE BEEN
OBLIQUE WITH NO SPECIFIC MENTION OF LANCE. NEVERTHELESS, SALE
OF SYSTEM TO IRAN COULD WELL TRIGGER REQUEST FOR LANCE BY GOK.
STOLTZFUS

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Message Attributes

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